

Library

11 JUL 59

ALDRIDGE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

of

Public Health Conditions

of the

Aldridge Urban District

For the Year Ending 31st December 1958.

by

V. E. MILNE,

M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health

and

H. C. PERKINS,

M.A.P.H.I.

Chief Public Health Inspector

STAFF:

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

V. E. MILNE, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Part-Time Officer

Health Department, Leighswood Rd, Aldridge, Staffs.

('Phone Aldridge 52011)

Home - 15, Portland Rd, Aldridge, Staffs.

('Phone Aldridge 52139)

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

H. C. PERKINS, M.A.P.H.I.

Whole-Time Officer.

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTORS

K. B. WILLIAMS, M.A.P.H.I.

A. MERCER, M.A.P.H.I.

CLERK

MISS B. M. MOORE.

TO THE ALDRIDGE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour of submitting my Thirty-fourth Annual Report on the Public Health Conditions of the Aldridge Urban District for the year ending 31st December, 1958, in accordance with the Ministry of Health Circular 22/58 of the 9th December, 1958.

AREA.

The area of the District is 9,28½ acres.

POPULATION.

The estimated home population at mid-summer 1958, was 42,170 (an increase of 3,070 from the previous year). This gives a population of 4.54 per acre.

INHABITED HOUSES.

The number of inhabited houses, according to rate books at 31/12/58 was 12,612, an increase of 1,311 from last year.

RATEABLE VALUE.

The Rateable Value was £387,804 and the sum represented by a 1d. Rate was £1,518 for the year 1958-59.

SOCIAL CONDITIONS

The chief occupations of the population are:- Brickmaking, mining, agricultural; heavy industries are now well established. The District is also largely residential.

VITAL STATISTICS.

These statistics relate to the net births and deaths, after correction for inward and outward transfers, as furnished by the Registrar General:

Live Births:

	Males.	Females.	Totals.
Legitimate	398	395	793
Illegitimate	10	6	16
	<u>408</u>	<u>401</u>	<u>809</u>

Of these 809 births, 359 were registered locally, the remaining 450 being transferred into the district from outside areas. Approximately 44.4 per cent of the births were, therefore, registered locally, which is less than the percentage for last year (viz., 50.9).

BIRTH AND DEATH RATES.

The crude live birth rate per 1,000 of the population was 19.18 and the corrected live birth rate 17.07 - the latter can be compared with the birth rate for the whole of England and Wales, which was 16.4 for 1958.

For 1957 the crude and corrected live birth rates were 19.84 and 18.05 respectively.

Two births took place in St. Margaret's Hospital, Gt. Barr (resident population approximately 1,450). Excluding the Hospital, the crude birth rate was 19.81 and the corrected birth rate 17.63.

Illegitimate Birth Rate - per 1,000 live births was 19.77.

Still Birth Rate - 21 still births (males 12 and females 9) were registered, and the rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births was 25.30 (or 0.49 per 1,000 of the population). The corresponding rate for the whole of England and Wales was 21.6. The still birth rate for 1957 was 22.67.

Death Rate - 307 deaths (males 179, females 123).

The crude death rate was 7.27 and the corrected death rate 11.99 per 1,000 of the population - the latter can be compared with the death rate for the whole of England and Wales, which was 11.7.

The Area Comparability Factors (A.C.F.'s) - used for calculating the corrected birth and death rates have been amended and are now 0.89 and 1.69 respectively as compared with 0.91 and 1.65. This means a further lowering of the crude birth rate and an increase of the crude death rate, and no doubt takes into account the fact that as the district rapidly develops, the number of residents in the younger age groups annually increases. In other words the A.C.F.'s make an approximate allowance for the way the sex and age distribution of the local population differs from that for England and Wales as a whole.

When so corrected, the birth and death rates are comparable with the crude rates for England and Wales, or with the corresponding corrected rates for any other area.

In addition the death rate A.C.F. is now adjusted specifically to take account of any "residential institutions" in each area.

One hundred and twenty eight deaths were transferred into the district and thirteen were transferred out.

Infantile Death Rate - 20 infants under one year of age died (of these, 17 were under four weeks of age), giving an Infantile Death Rate of 24.72 per 1,000 live births.

The Infantile Death Rate (all causes) for the whole of England and Wales was 22.5 per 1,000 Live Births, the lowest ever recorded in this country.

One illegitimacy infant died under one year of age.

No death resulted from Pregnancy, Childbirth or Abortion.

Cancer etc. - 46 deaths resulted from malignant neoplasms and included in these were 8 deaths due to cancer of the lung and/or bronchus.

Details of persons normally resident in the Aldridge Urban District who die of cancer (all kinds) continue to be forwarded monthly to the County Medical Officer of Health.

Again, no death was due to Diphtheria, and 13 resulted from Pneumonia.

Laboratory Facilities - The Public Health Laboratory Service (Stafford) supplies excellent facilities for the examination of swabs, specimens of sputa, blood, etc.

During the year reports on 2 swabs from throats etc., and 37 specimens of faeces were received, 25 of which were negative. Two specimens of sputum were examined for tubercle bacilli, and both were negative.

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES.

The following services are provided by the Staffordshire County Council as the Local Health Authority:

Ambulance Service

Home Help Service

Diphtheria Immunisation (Private Practitioners, and at Infant Welfare Centres and School Clinics)

Ante-Natal Clinics

Infant Welfare Centres

Laboratory Services - The Public Health Laboratory Service, Martin Street, Stafford (Tel: Stafford 377) - Director - Dr. E. M. Mackay-Scollay (Directed by the Medical Research Council for the Ministry of Health).

Chemical Analysis - County Analyst - A. Houlbrooke Esq., M.Sc., F.R.I.C., Chemical Laboratory, County Buildings, Stafford (Tel: Stafford 578).

Hospitals - Those chiefly used are: The General, The Manor and St. John's Hospitals, Walsall; The Birmingham and Wolverhampton Hospitals, and the Cannock and Lichfield Hospitals. Admissions are usually arranged by General Practitioners.

Maternity Accommodation - Hospitalization, on medical grounds, is arranged by the patient's Doctor, and for unsuitable home conditions, after investigation by the Health Visitor, by the Hospital Management Committee of the area in which the applicant resides.

Small Pox - Treatment and hospitalization are arranged for through the Regional Hospital Board.

Venereal Disease - Clinics are held at the Manor Hospital, Walsall, for diagnostic, consultative and curative purposes.

Tuberculosis - Treatment is now arranged for through the Regional Hospital Board.

WATER.

The Aldridge Urban District is within the statutory area of the South Staffordshire Waterworks Company, and Mr. R. A. Robertson, B.Sc., M.Inst.C.E., Chief Engineer, has kindly let me have the following information for the year 1958:-

1. The water supply to the Urban District Council of Aldridge has been satisfactory in quality and quantity.
2. The supply is derived mainly from one pumping station (Bourne Vale) within and six outside the Authority's boundaries. A proportion of water of surface origin is also supplied to parts of the district.

Regular and frequent samples, both bacteriological and chemical, are examined from the pumping stations. Bacteriological samples of the water prior to chlorination are also examined where possible.

During 1958, 53 samples from Bourne Vale Pumping Station were all satisfactory.

264 samples were examined from Barr Beacon Reservoirs of which 236 were free from coliform bacteria.

12 samples from the Waterman's house, Aldridge, were all free from coliform bacteria. The average chemical results of these samples were:-

pH	7.3			
Alkalinity (CaCO ₃)	138	parts per million		
Chlorides (Cl)	25.0	"	"	"
Ammoniacal Nitrogen (N)	Trace	"	"	"
Albuminoid Nitrogen (N)	Trace	"	"	"
Oxidised Nitrogen (N)	7.0	"	"	"
Oxygen absorbed (3hr at 20°C)	.12	"	"	"
Temporary Hardness	133	"	"	"
Permanent Hardness	97	"	"	"
Total Hardness	230	"	"	"
Total Solids	346	"	"	"
Iron (Fe)	.02	"	"	"
Manganese (Mn)	Nil	"	"	"
Calcium (Ca)	86.0	"	"	"
Magnesium (Mg)	3.4	"	"	"
Zinc (Zn)	Nil	"	"	"
Poisonous Metals (Cu & Pb)	Nil	"	"	"
Free Cl	Nil	"	"	"

3. The waters are not liable to plumbo solvency, all 12 samples from the waterman's house being free from any detectable quantity of lead.
4. Chlorination is practised, as a precautionary measure, at most of the Pumping Stations.

In cases of possible contamination in the event of burst or damaged mains, emptying reservoirs etc., emergency chlorination is performed. Special apparatus and staff are available for this work. New mains etc., are not brought into use until the water has been examined and pronounced satisfactory.

5. The number of houses with a piped water supply in the Urban District of Aldridge at 31st December 1958, was 12,693, an increase of 1,220 from the previous year.

This information indicates that the quality and quantity of the water supply throughout the district has been most satisfactory.

There are still a few isolated wells in the less thickly populated parts of the district.

PUBLIC CLEANING.

The refuse collection and disposal service was transferred from the Health Department to the Surveyor's Department on 1st April, 1958.

HOUSING.

The number of houses erected during the year 1958:-

<u>Erected by Local Authority.</u>		<u>Otherwise.</u>	
Erected during 1958.	In course of erection at end of 1958.	Erected during 1958.	In course of erection at end of 1958.
316	377	844	411
TOTALS:		Erected during 1958	1160
		In course of erection at end of 1958	788

Full particulars regarding inspections made, remedying of defects, action taken under Statutory Powers, overcrowding under the Housing Act 1936, will be found in the Chief Public Health Inspector's report.

SLUM CLEARANCE.

The following houses were demolished during the year:-

Aldridge Ward	8
Heath End & Pelsall Ward	53
Streetly Ward	4
	<u>65</u>

SAMPLING OF MILK AND FOODS.

The County Sampling Officer has taken repeated samples of milk and foods, and these are examined and reported upon by the County Bacteriologist and Analyst. (See Chief Public Health Inspector's Report).

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER
INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

Hospital Accommodation.

The arrangements for admissions of infectious cases are usually made by the General Practitioner in attendance.

SCHOOLS.

It was not considered necessary to close a school on account of infectious disease.

DIPHTHERIA.

No case of diphtheria was notified during 1958.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

This service is conducted by the County Authority, and the children are immunised by the County Medical Staff and General Practitioners.

Assuming the age groups of the population have not materially altered, the estimated age groups at 30th June 1958 (when the estimated total population was 42,170) were as follows:-

0-4 Age Group	4,152
5-14 Age Group	7,295

For the previous year these figures were 3,850 and 6,764.

The following information has been given by Dr. C. E. Jamison, the Area Medical Officer:-

The numbers of children immunised for the first time during the year 1958 were:-

Under 5 years of age	612
5-14 years of age	<u>170</u>
	<u>782</u>

The number of children re-immunised during the year 1958 was:-

All ages	680
----------	-----

Immunisation state as at 31st December 1958:-

	Under 1	1-4	5-9	10-14	TOTAL
Immunised					
1954-58	30	1628	1895	1394	4,947
Immunised during					
1953 or before	-	-	670	1873	2,543

I am grateful to Dr. Jamison, Area Medical Officer of Health, for the information necessary to compile the above report.

POLIOMYELITIS VACCINATION.

At present the vaccination scheme is limited to children over 6 months of age, young persons under 26 years of age, expectant mothers and certain other persons at special risk - such as Nurses, Public Health Inspectors, Doctors.

No statistics for persons in the District who have received vaccinations are available.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) DURING
THE YEAR 1958.

<u>Disease.</u>	<u>Total cases notified after correction.</u>
Diphtheria	-
Scarlet Fever	62
Enteric Fever, including Paratyphoid	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	-
Pneumonia	17
Meningococcal Infection	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	-
Dysentery	7
Measles (excluding Rubella)	273
Whooping Cough	46
Ac. Poliomyelitis (Paralytic)	1
" " (Non-Paralytic)	-
Erysipelas	1
Food Poisoning	-
Acute Encephalitis (Infective)	-
" " (Post Infectious)	-

ANALYSIS OF THE NOTIFIED INFECTIOUS CASES (AFTER
CORRECTION) IN AGE GROUPS AND WARDS IS GIVEN BELOW:-

<u>AGE GROUPS.</u>	<u>Scar- let Fever.</u>	<u>Whoop- ing Cough.</u>	<u>Acute Polio- myelitis.</u>		<u>Measles.</u>	<u>Diph- ther- ia.</u>	<u>Dy- sent- ery.</u>	<u>Mening: Infect- ion.</u>
			<u>Para.</u>	<u>Non-Para.</u>				
0-1 year	2	8	-	-	12	-	-	-
1-2 years	4	2	-	-	26	-	-	-
2-3 "	3	2	-	-	25	-	2	-
3-4 "	3	8	-	-	36	-	-	-
4-5 "	30	8	-	-	39	-	-	-
5-9 "	16	18	-	-	130	-	-	-
10-14 "	4	-	1	-	2	-	1	-
15-24 "	-	-	-	-	3	-	1	-
25+	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-
Unknown	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	62	46	1	-	273	-	7	-

<u>WARDS.</u>	<u>Scar- let Fever.</u>	<u>Whoop- ing Cough.</u>	<u>Acute Polio- myelitis.</u>		<u>Measles.</u>	<u>Diph- ther- ia.</u>	<u>Dy- sent- ery.</u>	<u>Mening: Infect- ion.</u>
			<u>Para.</u>	<u>Non-Para.</u>				
Aldridge	26	13	-	-	121	-	3	-
Gt. Barr	2	2	-	-	15	-	-	-
Pelsall	19	9	-	-	35	-	-	-
Pheasey	2	8	-	-	65	-	2	-
Rushall	3	7	-	-	11	-	1	-
Streetly	10	7	1	-	26	-	1	-
TOTALS	62	46	1	-	273	-	7	-

<u>AGE GROUPS.</u>	<u>Pneumonia.</u>	<u>Erysipelas.</u>	<u>Puerperal Pyrexia.</u>	<u>Ophthalmia Neonatorum.</u>	<u>Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers.</u>	<u>Encephalitis.</u>	<u>Food Poisoning.</u>
0-4 years	2	-	-	-	-	1	-
5-14 "	5	-	-	-	-	-	-
15-44 "	4	-	-	-	-	-	-
45-64 "	5	1	-	-	-	-	-
65 & over	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	17	1	-	-	-	1	-

<u>WARDS.</u>							
Aldridge	7	1	-	-	-	-	-
Gt. Barr	3	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pelsall	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pheasey	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Rushall	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Streetly	6	-	-	-	-	1	-
TOTALS	17	1	-	-	-	1	-

No case of Puerperal Pyrexia was notified.

The following Table shows the attack rate of certain infectious diseases notified during the year 1958, per 1,000 of the population.

	<u>Cases.</u>	<u>Rate.</u>
Scarlet Fever	62	1.47
Whooping Cough	46	1.09
Erysipelas	1	0.02
Pneumonia	17	0.41
Poliomyelitis	1	0.02
Measles	278	6.59

POLIOMYELITIS.

The case of poliomyelitis (paralytic) was notified from Streetly and treated in Hospital.

One contact was kept under observation.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Thirty-nine cases of tuberculosis (See Table) were entered on the Register, 32 Pulmonary and 7 Non-Pulmonary.

Sixteen cases resided in Aldridge, 2 in Rushall, 5 in Pelsall, 9 in Pheasey, 5 in Streetly and 2 in Gt. Barr.

Eight of these 39 cases were notified from Institutions and 16 cases were brought to my notice otherwise than by formal notification on Form "A" as follows:-

Inward Transfers	14
First notification after death	<u>2</u>
	<u>16</u>

The 14 cases transferred into the District came to reside as follows:-

Pheasey 4, Aldridge 6, Gt. Barr 1 and Streetly 3.

This influx is only what may be anticipated, as the opportunity to move from more densely populated neighbouring areas into the Aldridge District is likely to be taken advantage of by such cases.

Five cases were erased from the Register as follows:-

1. Deaths	3 (One from St. Margaret's Hospital).
2. Altered Diagnosis	1
3. "Recovered"	1

There were 210 cases of tuberculosis on the Register at 31/12/58 (excluding the cases resident in St. Margaret's Hospital, Gt. Barr) as follows:-

<u>Pulmonary.</u>		<u>Non-Pulmonary.</u>	
Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.
104	88	8	10

There were 17 cases of tuberculosis in St. Margaret's Hospital, at 31/12/58 as follows:-

<u>Pulmonary.</u>		<u>Non-Pulmonary.</u>	
Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.
15	1	1	-

The total number of cases on the register at the end of the year, for the whole of the District, including those in St. Margaret's Hospital, Gt. Barr, was therefore 227, made up as follows:-

<u>Pulmonary.</u>		<u>Non-Pulmonary.</u>	
Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.
119	89	9	10

The notification of tuberculosis during the year was good. No action was necessary on account of wilful neglect or refusal to notify.

Three deaths from Pulmonary and no death from Non-Pulmonary tuberculosis were registered, giving death rates per 1,000 of the population of 0.07 and nil respectively.

This is the lowest figure ever recorded for the Aldridge Urban District and compares with 1.59 the average for the three years 1913-14-15 and with 0.28 the average for the decade 1917-56.

The following table shows the cases of tuberculosis entered on the register and the number of deaths, according to the death returns, from this disease (classified according to age and sex) during the year 1958.

Age Periods	<u>CASES ENTERED IN REGISTER.</u>				<u>DEATHS.</u>			
	M.	Pul. F.	Non-Pul. M.	F.	M.	Pul. F.	Non-Pul. M.	F.
0-1 year	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1-2 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2-5 "	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
5-10 "	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
10-15 "	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
15-20 "	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
20-25 "	1	3	-	-	-	-	-	-
25-35 "	2	8	1	1	-	-	-	-
35-45 "	2	6	1	1	-	-	-	-
45-55 "	2	1	1	-	1	1	-	-
55-65 "	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65-75 "	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
75 & over	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	8	24	5	2	1	2	-	-

It was not found necessary to compulsorily remove any case of infectious disease to hospital.

DYSENTERY.

Seven cases of dysentery were notified, each requiring repeated visits. 37 samples of faeces were obtained from these cases and from contacts for bacteriological reports. This involved considerable time on the part of the staff.

FOOD POISONING.

Following receipt of the Ministry of Health Circular 5/58 dealing with the investigation of food poisoning, the General Practitioners in the District were reminded of the great value of full and prompt notification of any case of food poisoning coming to their notice. No case of food poisoning was notified during the year.

FOOD HYGIENE.

Because of pressure of work and the previous Chief Public Health Inspector's ill health, visits to food premises were not carried out as regularly as otherwise would have been the case. Since the appointment of Mr. Perkins however, many more visits have been made to these premises and regular reports have been submitted to the Health Committee. Details of these reports are contained in the Chief Public Health Inspector's report.

These inspections will be regularly continued and so it is anticipated the standard of handling, storage and distribution of food will steadily be raised, to comply with the Food Hygiene Regulations.

MORTUARY.

The Mortuary, at Anchor Road, Aldridge, continues to be used to the satisfaction of all concerned. The same part-time attendant is employed and the arrangements appear to be satisfactory. There has been complete co-operation with the Police.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

It is pleasing to know that the modern sewage disposal works, to replace the inadequate and obsolete works situated at Chester Road, Streetly, are in the course of construction.

PRIVIES.

The number of privies now remaining throughout the district is 2; these are in situations where a public sewer is not available.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948 (SECTION 47).

One person was dealt with during 1958, under the provisions of the above Act. He resided in Great Barr, was aged 83 and was removed to St. Editha's Hospital, Tamworth, by a Court Order dated 17th March 1958.

The circumstances of two other aged persons (from Great Barr and Pelsall) were also investigated, but no action under the above Act was necessary.

CARAVANS.

It would appear that the limited powers available to deal with the control of caravans are inadequate. Consequently very considerable inspectorial time has been necessary to exercise reasonable control over the constant and recurring cases of caravan dwellers.

MASS RADIOGRAPHY UNIT SURVEYS.

A survey was carried out at Great Barr from the 1st to 6th May 1958. The figures given below, indicate that the number of persons availing themselves of this free, but very worthwhile service, was disappointing, when compared with the numbers attending similar surveys in past years.

General Public.

<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
395	609	1004
Recalled for large films	22	
Recalled for clinical examination	Nil	
Referred to chest clinic or own Doctor	10	

As fewer members of the public appear to be taking advantage of this free service than in recent years, and as a Mass Radiography Unit visits Walsall each Monday (services as given below) to deal with cases referred by General Practitioners, Industrial Medical Officers, etc., it is fair to assume it is not now so necessary for Annual Public Sessions to be conducted by a Mass Radiography Unit in the district.

WALSALL SESSIONS - Every Monday (Bank Holidays Excepted)

11.15 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.
1.45 p.m. to 3.00 p.m.
3.15 p.m. to 4.30 p.m.

Experience has made it clear that the Unit is of greater value when the persons dealt with have been recommended as above.

Grateful thanks are due to the Medical Director, Organising Secretary and all the staff for their close co-operation, efficient conduct of the survey and detailed reports.

CLEAN AIR ACT 1956.

This Act now makes it possible to make a determined effort to clean up the atmosphere and plans are being formulated for the establishment of smoke control areas. Every member of the public must play a part, as the remedy for atmospheric pollution must be found through co-operative action.

GENERAL REMARKS.

The health of the population was very satisfactory during 1958.

The crude birth rate (19.18) was considerably higher than the average for the previous 5 years (16.27).

The crude death rate (7.27) was slightly higher than the average for the last 5 years (7.10). For the eleventh consecutive year no death resulted from pregnancy, childbirth or abortion. This is most gratifying.

The Infantile Death Rate (24.72) was higher than in 1957 (16.75) but lower than the average for the last 5 years (25.99). For the whole of England and Wales the rate was 22.5 for 1958, the lowest ever recorded.

Four tuberculous persons were re-housed during the year. The co-operation between the Housing and Health Committees in the problem of re-housing tuberculous persons continues, as in the past.

Medical science has found and overcome many health evils in the past, but there are still many which are challenging the Public Health Services. At the moment the three evils on which the activities of the Department are concentrating are:-

- (1) Atmospheric Pollution
- (2) Lack of Food Hygiene
- (3) Slum Properties

This work will be energetically pursued and will warrant the appointment of an Additional Public Health Inspector in 1959. Concurrently with these activities constant endeavour is made to deal with all complaints and other routine work as fully as possible.

All members of the staff from the Chief Public Health Inspector downwards have conducted their respective duties conscientiously and willingly.

The Chief Public Health Inspector has proved himself most competent and energetic in carrying out his duties.

I again desire to thank you, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen, and also fellow Officers and Council staff, for the co-operation, consideration and courtesy received in the course of my duties during the year.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

V. E. MILNE.

Medical Officer of Health.

CERTAIN VITAL STATISTICS FOR ALL ENGLAND
AND WALES FOR 1958.

Live Births/Deaths - Annual rates per 1,000 population.
Still Births - Rate per 1,000 total live and still births.
Infant Mortality - Rate per 1,000 related live births.

Birth Rate - 16.04 - 0.3 higher than that for 1957 -
the highest since 1949.

Still Births - the provisional still birth rate was 21.6
per 1,000 live and still births, compared
with 22.5 for 1957.

Death Rate - 11.7 - 0.2 higher than for 1957.

Infant Mortality -
(under 1 year of age) - 22.5 - the lowest
ever recorded in this country. This was
0.6 below that for 1957 - the previous
lowest.

The estimated total population for England and Wales for the
year 1958 was 45,244,000, and the estimated home population was
45,109,000.

The total estimated population for 1958 was 201,000 over the
estimate for 1957.

TOTAL DEATHS.

Causes of Death in the Aldridge U.D. (Year 1958).

CAUSES OF DEATH	M.	F.
ALL CAUSES:	179	128
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	2	2
2. Tuberculosis, other	-	-
3. Syphilitic Disease	-	-
4. Diphtheria	-	-
5. Whooping Cough	-	-
6. Meningococcal Infections	-	-
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-
8. Measles	-	-
9. Other Infective Parasitic Diseases	1	-
10. Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	6	1
11. Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	7	1
12. Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	-	3
13. Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus	-	4
14. Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	15	9
15. Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	-	1
16. Diabetes	1	1
17. Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	19	30
18. Coronary Disease, Angina	37	12
19. Hypertension with Heart Disease	7	6
20. Other Heart Disease	16	20
21. Other Circulatory Diseases	2	4
22. Influenza	3	1
23. Pneumonia	8	5
24. Bronchitis	15	6
25. Other Diseases of Respiratory System	2	-
26. Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	3	-
27. Gastritis, Enteritis, Diarrhoea	-	-
28. Nephritis and Nephrosis	1	-
29. Hyperplasia of Prostate	2	-
30. Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	-	-
31. Congenital Malformations	3	3
32. Other Defined and Ill-Defined Diseases	18	12
33. Motor Vehicle Accidents	5	3
34. All Other Accidents	3	3
35. Suicide	3	1
36. Homicide and Operations of War	-	-
<u>Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age.</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>
Total	11	9
Legitimate	10	9
Illegitimate	1	-
<u>Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks of age.</u>		
Total	9	8
Legitimate	8	8
Illegitimate	1	-
<u>Live Births</u>		
Total	408	401
Legitimate	398	395
Illegitimate	10	6

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT 1958.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
ALDRIDGE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

This is the first opportunity I have had to present my first Annual Report since my appointment as Chief Public Health Inspector.

My predecessor, Mr. Boocock, remained in Office until July 1958. I was indeed grateful; for, although I took up my duties in May 1958 those two months served with Mr. Boocock gave me a breathing space to settle in, acclimatise myself to the district, and meet the various Members and Officers of the Council.

It was soon apparent to me that here lay a challenge to the whole staff of the Public Health Department, in an endeavour to provide every man's right, repeat, right, to have good homes, clean, safe and wholesome food, and clean air to breathe. The health of every man, woman and child is so important that there must be no restriction in providing the foundation stones for its preservation. I gladly accept this challenge and look forward to the future, confident in the ability of all members of the staff to discharge their duties in a courteous and efficient manner.

May I take this opportunity to express my grateful thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee for their help and support in the many projects and problems that I have had the honour to present.

I would also like to say thank you to the Clerk of the Council, the Surveyor and Treasurer and members of their respective staffs, for all the help and co-operation I have received from them.

It would be remiss of me if I failed to recognise the valuable assistance and co-operation received from Dr. Milne, Medical Officer of Health since my appointment. Experience has proved that a strong team spirit between all members of the department is essential for the smooth and efficient working of the Health Department with its many complex problems to cope with. This spirit, I am happy to believe, exists, and each member of the staff is an integral part of the machine, with a valuable part to play in the policy of "Better Health for All".

Lastly I would like to pay tribute to the members of the staff for their patient, courteous and helpful outlook and co-operation in the conduct of their duties, which fit admirably into the pattern of a vigorous, yet human Health Department.

The members of the staff being:-

Mr. K. B. Williams, Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector.

Mr. A. Mercer, (Appointed 1st August 1958 from the City of Lancaster) - Additional Public Health Inspector.

Miss B.M. Moore, Shorthand-typist, without whose organising and clerical skill our field work would be seriously curtailed.

WATER SUPPLY.

The whole of the district is within the statutory area of the South Staffordshire Waterworks Company, and the supply of water has been maintained in a satisfactory state of quality and quantity throughout the year.

A few cases exist where the only water supply obtainable is from wells.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

The closet accommodation throughout the district is of the water carriage system, with water closets provided for each individual house.

There still remains, however, some pail closets and privies in such areas where sewers are not available.

Number of privies remaining in the district	2
Number of pails remaining in the district	46

The following details are supplied by the courtesy of Mr. J. Mason, the Council's Engineer and Surveyor:-

DRAINAGE AND SEWAGE.

1. Linley Lodge surface water sewer which is designed to improve drainage between Dumblederry Lane and Westgate and cope with increased run-off from new factory area. Value £20,000.
2. Leighswood Road/High Street, Aldridge, storm water sewer being second stage of main outfall from Aldridge Centre to replace inadequate drain. Value £1,860.
3. Commencement of Eastern Area Sewerage and Sewage Disposal Schemes. Consulting Engineers, Sir A.H.S. Waters & Partners.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

Cleansing of Fotherley Brook and construction of temporary works at Streetly Sewage Disposal Works to obtain more satisfactory effluent.

NUMBER OF HOUSES ERECTED DURING THE YEAR.

(a) By Local Authority	316
(b) By Other Authority	-
(c) By Private Enterprise	844

NUMBER OF HOUSES IN COURSE OF ERECTION AT THE END OF THE YEAR.

(a) By Local Authority	377
(b) By Other Authority	-
(c) By Private Enterprise	411

RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION WORK

(1st April, 1958, to 31st March, 1959).

Rats and Mice Destruction Work has been carried out throughout the year in close co-operation with the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries Infestation Control Division.

One man is employed part-time as rodent operative. The time spent on rodent work during the year has been equivalent to 66% of the full working time of one man.

PREMISES INSPECTED.

(To confirm infestation or otherwise).

	Totals Inspected.	Found Infested.	Found Non-Infested.
Dwelling Houses (including Council Houses)	153	123	30
Business Premises	42	37	5
Council Premises	9	9	-
	<u>204</u>	<u>169</u>	<u>35</u>

VISITS TO CARRY OUT TREATMENT OF INFESTED PREMISES.

Dwelling Houses (Including Council Houses)	890
Business Premises	24
Council Premises	183
	<u>1317</u>

CLEAN AIR ACT, 1956.

Since my appointment plans to visit all the industrial premises situated within the district have been made, with the object of inspecting and recording the types of steam raising plant, methods of heating used, and all relevant information to help "Clear the Air".

It is, however, recognised that the amount of atmospheric pollution produced by domestic fires accounts for at least 50% of the pollution of the air. The Act authorises Local Authorities, with the consent of the Minister of Housing and Local Government, to form Smoke Control Areas within which, with certain reservations, the emission of smoke from chimneys will be a punishable offence.

It is my intention during the coming year to submit for your consideration certain specific areas within the district to be designated "Smoke Control Areas".

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT 1936 (Section 75(1)).

Dustbins supplied by Council on request	38
Dustbins supplied by Council in default	34
Dustbins supplied by occupiers and/or owners voluntarily	123
Dustbins supplied to Council properties	<u>195</u>
	<u>390</u>

VISITS MADE - PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTIONS.

Inspections made re Housing Defects:-

Informal	382
Public Health Act	127
Housing Act	25
Inspections made re Demolition	282
Inspections made re Clearance	162
Inspections made re Housing Act:-	
Closure	1
Undertakings	11
Certificate of Disrepair	11
Inspections made re Rent Act	26
Inspections made re Clean Air Act	1
Number of Visits re:-	
Overcrowding	5
Slaughterhouses	6
Food Shops	270
Shops (Shops Act)	74
Milk Shops	4
Ice Cream Premises	22
Bakehouses	1
Factories	65
Outworkers	7
Mortuary	9
Milk and Dairies Regulations	5
Merchandise Marks Act	1
Drainage	295
Closet Accommodation	35
Pail Closets	40
Cesspools	10
Dustbins	785
House Refuse	53
Vermin	9
Animals	9
Water Supply	10
Accumulations	69
Tents, Vans, Sheds	125
Atmospheric Pollution	281
Unsound Food	16
Rats and Mice (By Public Health Inspectors)	76
Cafe-Restaurant	4
School Meal Centres	13
Meat Inspections	371
Food Poisoning	1
Aged Persons	5
Miscellaneous	321
Infectious Disease:-	
Inquiries	151
Disinfestation - clothing	3
Building Sites	23

4,202

NOTICES DEALT WITH DURING THE YEAR.

	Notices Served.	Notices Completed.	Other Notices Superseded or Rescinded
Informal	173	93	15
Statutory	190	217	1
	<u>363</u>	<u>310</u>	<u>16</u>

FACTORIES ACT.

Number of Factories on Register (Including Bakehouses)	120
Number of Visits made - Factories	65
Bakehouses	1
Outworker's Premises	7
	<u>73</u>

SANITARY ACCOMMODATION IN FACTORIES - DEALT WITH.

Want of Cleanliness	2
Lighting	1
Notice	2
Insufficient	2
Intervening Ventilated Space	2
	<u>9</u>

COMPLAINTS.

Complaints received at the Health Department and dealt with,

Drainage, house defects, nuisances etc.	236
Defective dustbins	411
Rats and Mice Infestation	150
	<u>797</u>

NATURE AND NUMBER OF STRUCTURAL DEFECTS
DEALT WITH IN HOUSES: TOGETHER WITH
NUISANCES AND OTHER MATTERS.

<u>House Defects:</u>	
House roofs	12
Floors	9
Walls, plaster	16
Ceilings, plaster	15
Windows, sashcords	7
Windows, defective	19
Doors	14
Stairs	2
Firegrates	4
Chimneys	5
Exterior House Wall, pointing	13
Exterior House Wall, rendering	2
Rising dampness	5
<u>Closet Accommodation Defects:</u>	
Water closet, repair	4
Water closet, new	4
Water closet, compartment repair	6
<u>Drainage Defects:</u>	14
Eavesgutters	16
Downspouts	4
Sink waste	6
<u>Miscellaneous:</u>	
Refuse accumulations	3
Water service installation	3

FOOD HYGIENE REGULATIONS, 1955.

Due to certain extenuating circumstances prevailing prior to my appointment, it would appear that visits to shops, cafes, canteens and bakehouses, for the purpose of inspection under the above-mentioned Regulations, had been restricted.

It is my intention, however, to have a complete survey of all premises where food is stored, handled and prepared, with a view to improving the standard of food handling and hygiene.

Many food handlers do not realise the importance of food hygiene in relation to the incidence of food poisoning.

Every endeavour will be made through talks, filmstrips and advice, readily given when asked, to help the food handler to eliminate the possible causes that may lead to food poisoning.

FOOD PREMISES INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF:

No. of Food Shops and Food Preparing Rooms Inspected	81
No. of Food Vans Inspected	9
No. of Notices Served	72
No. of Contraventions Found	489
No. of re-inspections	8
No. of improvements	17
<u>Inspections made of:-</u>	
Milk Shops	4
Food Shops	270
Ice Cream Shops	22
Cafe-Restaurant	4
School Meal Centres	13
Inspections made re Unsound Food	16
	<u>329</u>

SHOPS ACT 1950.

No. of Shops Inspected	74
No. of Notices Served	8
No. of Contraventions Found	13

THE SLAUGHTERHOUSES ACT, 1958.

The above Act came into force on 1st August, 1958, and it would appear that the Act has three main purposes which can be summarised briefly as follows:-

- (1) To provide for new and strict minimum standards for the construction and equipment of slaughterhouses
- (2) To preserve the existing system of licensing of private slaughterhouses by local authorities and of providing public slaughterhouses
- (3) To achieve the modernisation and improvement of slaughterhouses in two stages:-
 - (a) First two years during which traders will be free to establish slaughterhouses where they wish (subject to planning permission and to minimum standards)
 - (b) After this period when a measure of control will be introduced.

This new Act appears as a most complex piece of legislation and will provide many headaches, but, no doubt, patience and goodwill on all sides will find a quick solution to problems raised.

UNFOOD FOODS.

The following goods were inspected and found unfit for human consumption:-

	No.	Lbs.	Ozs.
PIGS Head	4	47	12
Head and tongue	2	19	-
Hocks	4	5	-
Kidney	-	-	4
Liver and portions	4	19	4
Lungs and portions	11	12	-
Lungs, heart, oesophagus and trachea	2	6	8
Trachea and heart	1	3	-
BOVINE Brisket	1	12	-
Carcase	1	615	-
Flank	1	4	-
Head and tongue	15	304	-
Heart	1	5	-
Intestines	1	12	-
Kidney and fat	-	3	-
Liver and portions	21	525	8
Lungs, trachea and oesophagus	17	195	-
Lungs and portions	2	30	-
Mesentery	6	27	-
Port skirt and diaphragm	-	1	8
Peritoneum and meat abdominal cavity	1	4	-
Portion diaphragm	2	1	-
Pleura	2	-	8
Short forequarter less shin	1	84	-
Spleen	2	3	-
Tail	1	3	-
Thick skirt	2	6	-
Thin skirt	1	1	-
Udder	7	48	-
SHEEP Caul fat	2	-	4
Heart	4	1	1
Liver and portions	40	141	10
Liver, lungs, trachea and heart	1	5	-
Lungs and portions	155	173	6
FISH Cured haddock fillets	-	2	11
TINS Corned beef	7	19	-
Minced beef	1	-	12
Beefsteak	1	1	-
Luncheon Meat	1	-	12
Pork tenderloin	3	10	8
Chopped Pork	1	4	-
Minced Pork	1	4	-
Herrings	2	1	15
Apricots	9	11	10
Cherries	1	-	13 $\frac{1}{2}$
Fruit Cocktail	2	2	2
Fruit Salad	4	5	11 $\frac{1}{2}$
Grapefruit	9	10	1
Oranges	4	2	12
Peas	5	9	4
Peaches	67	639	6 $\frac{3}{4}$
Pears	14	21	4
Pineapple	24	33	10
Plums	7	8	10
Raspberries	1	1	14
Tomatoes	49	49	9
Beans in Tomato	1	1	-
Soup	4	3	8
Creamed Mushrooms	1	-	7 $\frac{1}{2}$
Evaporated Milk	3	2 $\frac{3}{4}$ pts.	
Condensed Milk	2	4 pts.	
TOTAL	539	6 $\frac{3}{4}$ pts. 3164	14 $\frac{1}{4}$

CARCASSES AND OFFAL INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED IN WHOLE OR PART.

	Cattle Excluding Cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.
Number killed	155	109	8	1271	307
Number inspected	155	109	8	1271	307
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci</u> Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	44	33	-	214	21
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	28.7%	30.2%	-	16.8%	6.8%
<u>Tuberculosis only:</u> Whole carcasses condemned	1	-	-	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	8	17	-	-	5
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	5.8%	15.5%	-	-	1.62%
<u>Cysticercosis:</u> Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	1	-	-	-	-
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration	1	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-

DETAILS OF SAMPLES TAKEN IN ALDRIDGE URBAN DISTRICT
UNDER THE FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955, DURING 1958.

The following records of samples of milk and other foods, taken in the district, have been supplied by the courtesy of Dr. G. Ramage, County Medical Officer of Health, Staffordshire County Council.

MILK:

Milk	2
Pasteurised	25
Pasteurised Tuberculin Tested	22
Channel Islands (All grades)	12
Sterilised	19
Tuberculin Tested	<u>1</u>
Total	<u>81</u>

All milks were genuine.

GENERAL FOODS AND DRUGS.

Almond Marzipan	Lemon Squash Powder
Beef Sausage	Luncheon Meat
Beef & Ox Tongue	Marmalade
Bitter Lemon	Meat Pastes
Butter Sponge	Mincemeat
Blackcurrant Jam	Mixed Fruit Jam
Cambridge Steaks	Mixed Cut Peel
Camphorated Oil	Mixed Vegetables
Caraway Seeds	Oil of Eucalyptus, B.P.
Casserole Steaks	Orange Marmalade
Cheese Spread	Paste of Chicken
Chicken Fillets	Pearl Barley
Corned Beef	Peaches in Syrup
Currants	Pastry Mix
Crab Meat	Pineapple Pieces
Castor Oil	Pork Sausage
Demerara Sugar	Pork Pie
Epsom Salts B.P.	Pork in Juice
Enriched Milk Loaf	Pearl Tapioca
Fruit Salad	Margarine
French Mustard	Pilchards in Tomato
Ground Almonds	Quick Flan Pack
Ground Cinnamon	Sardines
Garden Peas	Salmon Spread
Glyocerin B.P.	Scone Mix
Ice Creams	Sodium Bicarbonate B.P.
Juniper Pills	Soft Herring Roes
Butter	Steak and Kidney Pie
Cooking Fat	Sugar
Jellies	Strawberries
Tomato Ketchup	Soups
Tomato Juice	Tea
Tuna	Vinegar
Gin	Whisky

TOTAL - 90 samples.

INCORRECT SAMPLES.

31 B/Q Pork Sausage	4.4% Deficient of Meat
2 B/X do repeat	Genuine
7 B/X Beef and Ox Tongue	Should be described as "in jelly"
	Formal sample genuine.
60 B/X Butter Sponge	Cake crumb contained insufficient butter. Filling was genuine
	Label amended.
53 B/D Casserole Steak	Deficient of meat of good quality,
97 B/D do repeat	but genuine in view of low price charged.
55 B/D Enriched Milk Loaf	Contains insufficient Milk Solids to justify the description "Milk Loaf"
	Matter taken up with Bakers.
74 B/D Luncheon Meat	Ingredients stated in wrong order.
	Imported from Central Europe.
	Labels to be amended.

MILK SAMPLES COLLECTED IN THE ALDRIDGE URBAN DISTRICT FOR

BACTERIOLOGICAL AND BIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION DURING 1958.

Designation	No. Submitted.	CLEANLINESS.		PHOSPHATASE.		TURBIDITY.		Found to contain Tubercle Bacilli.
		Satis.	Unsatis.	Pass.	Fail.	Pass.	Fail.	
Tuberculin Tested	9	9	-	-	-	-	-	3*
Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised)	90	88+	-	90	-	-	-	-
Pasteurised	65	64+	-	64	1	-	-	-
Sterilised	51	-	-	-	-	51	-	-
TOTALS	215	161	-	154	1	51	-	3*

* The three samples submitted to the Biological Test were included in the number submitted to the cleanliness test.

+ Three samples void owing to temperature.

HOUSING.

1. Inspection of dwelling houses during the year:

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects under Public Health Acts or Housing Acts	368
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	2164
(2) (a) Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above, which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 and 1932	82
(b) Number of inspections made for that purpose	307
(3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	36
(4) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceeding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	333
(5) Houses on which undertakings were given and completed	1
Houses on which undertakings were given and have not been completed	1

2. Remedy of Defects during the year without service of formal notice:

Number of dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	20
---	----

3. Action Under Statutory Powers during the year:

(a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10, and 12 of the Housing Act 1957	
(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	Nil
(2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices	
(a) By Owners	Nil
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners	Nil
(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts:	
(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	17
(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices	
(a) By Owners	13
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners	Nil

(c) Proceedings under Sections 17, 23 and 42 of the Housing Act 1957:

- | | |
|--|----|
| (1) Number of houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made | 3 |
| (2) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders | 22 |
| (3) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Clearance Order | 43 |

(d) Proceedings under Section 18 of the Housing Act 1957

- | | |
|---|-----|
| (1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made | Nil |
| (2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit | Nil |

I have the honour to be, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

H. C. PERKINS.

Chief Public Health Inspector.

